

AUSTRALIAN PERFINS - THE GOVERNMENT OF VICTORIA by Roy Everett

Having read the article by Jon Johnson in Issue 226, and with a quick reference to the excellent booklet produced by B. R. V. Toop specifically on this subject, the following can be said in follow up to the previous aforesaid article:

On Victorian Government perfins there are four distinct types of die, these dies have up to eight positional placements on the stamp; as viewed from the front, upright, inverted, upright inverted, inverted reversed, sideways downwards, sideways downwards reversed, sideways upwards, sideways upwards reversed.

The dies are listed 1 to 4 with the following particulars:

Type 1: VG 9,10 used from 1933 to 1953.

Type 2: VG 9,11 used from 1936 to 1953 in combination with Type 1

Type 3: VG 7,10 used from 1953 to 1972.

Type 4: VG 9,11 used from 1976 to date.

In the highly recommended booklet Mr. Toop then proceeds to write about the machines used to perfin stamps with VG and illustrates the machine idle and in usage actually carrying out such perforating. Subsequently are listed Types 1 to 4 in all the so far discovered positional placements from the eight above lettered A to H, and also are given the stamp catalogue numbers and descriptions of all these issues.

At the back, in an Appendix, Mr. Toop then illustrates the methods of entering the sheets into the perfinning machines, detailing how the positional placements were effected in the process.

For those collectors interested in finding out more about this States perfins, and solving exactly which of the processes produced the Figs. 1 and 2 of Mr. Johnson's article, then you can acquire the booklet directly from:

B.V.R Toop
2 Baxter Street
Timboon
Vic. 3268
Australia

The cover cost of the booklet is A\$6.00
and Air post on top of that must be
considered.

As Mr Toop states, 'the dies were Individually manufactured and each varied one from another so that each die can be Identified by looking at single punctured stamps', and 'Type 1 had twelve dies but was replaced after just 3 years with a new complete head of twelve dies of which the third, sixth and twelfth were with G's of 11 holes. For long considered 'wallpaper' by perfin collectors this brief review of the VG perfins should stimulate you into a) collecting them in their own right, and, b) thinking about finding and writing up the issues of the other Australian States perfins to the same comprehensive standard.